

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 12th. January 2011 at 7.30pm

Members Present:

Cllr. K. Jacobs, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. Britnell, Cllr. Edward, Cllr. Mrs. Gable,
Cllr. Mrs. Haynes, Cllr. Latham, Cllr. McCoy,
Cllr. Mrs. Palmer, Cllr. Mrs. Rowe & Cllr. Mrs. Russell

also in attendance: Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP)
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk

1. **Apologies** for absence had been received from the Chairman, Cllr. Wright (business commitments), Cllr. Sage (family commitments) and Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP). In the absence of the Chairman the Chair was taken by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Keith Jacobs.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Jacobs – Item 8 – Finance: To consider the request for grant from Porlock Recreation Ground Management Committee.

Declared a prejudicial interest as Chairman of the Management Committee and left the meeting when the item was discussed.

Cllr. Mrs. Gable – Item 8 as above

Declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the Management Committee and left the meeting when the item was discussed.

Cllr. Mrs. Rowe – Item 8 as above

Declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the Management Committee and left the meeting when the item was discussed.

3. **The Minutes** as previously circulated of the meeting held on 8th. December were unanimously confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters for Report not on the Agenda

John Edwards OBE

The Council requested that congratulations be sent to John Edwards on being awarded the OBE. It was unanimously agreed that the honour was very well deserved.

Local Policing

PCSO's Sue Hurley and Katherine Williams had, prior to the meeting, provided details of reported incidents dealt with for the period 1st. November – 12th. January. There had been 5 reported crimes in total. 78 other calls had also been taken many of which had been during the very cold weather when people had experienced problems with the icy roads. Both officers hope to be able to attend the next Council meeting.

5. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

6. Somerset County Council and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP) had sent her apologies for absence due to family matters.

Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP) referred to the letter from the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Tim Taylor, which had appeared in the Free Press and in which he had questioned the economic viability of the Council. Cllr. Freeman felt that the Parish Council should be aware of the implications and the difficulties which would be faced by the District Council when it sets its Budget in February.

One other item of concern which Cllr. Freeman felt the parishes should be aware of was the proposals for a Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) scheme within West Somerset. This scheme would be operated by Somerset County Council but with a significant contribution from West Somerset and other District Councils. There is to be no consultation on the proposals and Cllr. Freeman was of the opinion that it will be a very inefficient way to raise money as a large part of the revenue will be paid to the contractors. WSC would retain control of the Car Parks owned by them and the County would contract out control of any others. The outside contractors operating the scheme would also be responsible for enforcement of on-street parking throughout the District. Both Cllr. Freeman and **Cllr. Angela Palmer (WSC)** indicated that they were opposed to the scheme. The Parish Council view was that this proposal would be very detrimental to a tourism area such as Porlock and would also damage trade within the village. The Clerk was asked to contact ENP for their views and once these are known consideration will be given to writing to both the County and District Councils.

7. Planning

The following application was considered:

6/27/10/131 **Proposed demolition of existing garage. Re-building of garage with bedroom over together with erection of a conservatory**
Aysgarth, Bossington Lane, Porlock

In keeping with the existing building. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to support and recommend approval.

Planning consent has been granted for the following applications:-

6/27/10/120 Proposed expansion of cottage into attached barn, Splatt Barn Cott.
6/27/10/122 Proposed single storey extension, Marrions, Parsons Street

6/27/10/123 Cert. of existing lawful use, West Porlock House
WTCA 10/63 Works to Trees in Conservation Area, St. Dubricius School

8. Finance

The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

EDF, unmetered supply to V.Hall Car Park light	17.98
Village Hall Management Committee, hire of Hall for public meeting (water main replacement)	17.00
Brightside Cleaning, window cleaning at Old School	9.00
Mr. A. Binding, winter maintenance at Cemetery	480.00
Mr. M.T. Burt, repair to tap in Cemetery	48.00
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's salary less tax	820.20
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's expenses- postage/phone& internet/sundries for Cemetery records	69.61
HMRC, tax and NIC due	275.35
Mrs. B. Hammett, Caretaker's wages	60.66
Total:	1797.80

Bank Balances At 31st. December 2010

Current Account	100.00
Reserve Account	61,438.04
Total:	61,538.04

Allotment Trust Account

Current Account	953.07
Reserve Account	6,524.44
Total:	7,477.51

Standard Life Account **20,406.60**

8.2 Confirmation of level of Precept

It was **RESOLVED** that no further changes be made to the budget for 2010/2011 and the level of precept was confirmed as £43,300.

8.3 Re-furbishment of Storage Facility at the Recreation Ground – Request for Grant

At the December meeting members of the Recreation Ground Committee had given a presentation on the plans to refurbish the storage area together with details of the costs involved. A request had been made by the Committee that funds precepted for this purpose by the Parish Council be released in order that the improvements be made.

During the ensuing discussion and vote the three Councillors who were also members of the Recreation Ground Committee and who had declared an interest left the meeting and the Chair was taken by Cllr. Mrs. Palmer.

Following discussion a vote was taken on a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Russell, seconded by Cllr. Britnell and Cllr. Latham, that £8,000 be released from the earmarked funds to cover the cost of refurbishing the storage area. This was carried unanimously.

It was further **RESOLVED** to defer allocating the remaining £4,000 of earmarked funds until such time as it was required to purchase new equipment for the Children's Play Area. All in favour. It was agreed that children at the school should be involved in the choice of the new equipment.

9. Matters Arising

9.1 Land Title Registration

Cllr. McCoy reported briefly on the progress of determining ownership of the land in Hawkcombe. It would appear that this may belong to Wessex Water under the terms of a 999 year lease made with Rev. Hook in approx 1896. The Clerk is awaiting written confirmation of this from Wessex Water. Wessex had also confirmed that the pumping station by the Village Hall Car Park is no longer in use.

9.2 "Children Playing" sign – Central Car Park

Cllr. Mrs. Palmer reported that WSC had confirmed that they could not put such a sign in their Car Park for reasons of possible insurance claims in the event of an accident. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's insurers had given the same response.

10. Library Closure

It was reported that a document outlining the role of community libraries had been received from SCC and that the Library sub-committee had met to discuss the various options available. The sub-committee had **RECOMMENDED** that Library users and the wider community needed to be consulted before any decisions on the future running of the Library were made by the Parish Council. A questionnaire had been drawn up and this was duly approved and will now be circulated. The feedback from this consultation will be used as a basis for discussion at the next Council meeting when a decision on the way forward will be made.

11. Old School – Wood Pellet Heating System

Confirmation had been received that the Parish Council had been awarded a further grant under the government's Low Carbon Communities Challenge programme, and that the wood pellet boiler scheme for the Old School Centre would now be able to go ahead. The Council confirmed its full support for the scheme which will provide a much more efficient and greener heating system throughout the building.

12. Winter Weather Conditions

Cllr. McCoy had requested that the Council consider contingency plans for dealing with snow and ice following the dangerous conditions left by the recent snow. It was agreed that a procedure to deal with this eventuality was very valid and that it should form part of the Emergency Plan. The Committee was asked to consider this at its meeting on 26th. January.

13. Correspondence

ENP – Defra’s Consultation on the Governance Arrangements for National Parks

Details of consultation events had been received. Cllr. Jacobs offered to attend the event being held in Lynton on 18th. January and Cllr. Britnell will attend the event at Winsford on 19th. January. Both Councillors will report back to the Council at the next meeting.

14. Reports from Outside Bodies

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Haynes confirmed that the Committee had acknowledged her appointment as the Parish Council’s representative and will contact her once a meeting has been arranged.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Mrs. Gable reported that the team were at present hard at work installing the new kitchen and storage cupboards in the Pavilion.

There will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss outside storage.

Once the Pavilion refurbishment is complete the matter of upgrading the equipment in the play area will be addressed.

Doverly Manor

There will be a meeting next week.

School Governors

Cllr. Mrs. Rowe confirmed that the next meeting will be on 19th. February.

The new build is scheduled to be completed by 4th. February and the official opening will be on March 7th.

Highways

Cllr. Edward reported that the undergrowth on the bank at the top of Villes Lane has been cut back.

There is still a small supply of salt available should there be any further icy weather.

The road surfaces have, on the whole, not been too badly affected by the icy conditions apart from a damaged area by the Village Hall Car Park entrance which Cllr. Edward will report.

15. Items for Report

There were none.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.28pm